

Order in the Assembly (1 Cor 14:26-40)

I. Introduction

- A. Some sample charismatic worship services characterized by disorder
- B. Preview of sermon / Pray

II. Review of 1 Cor 14:1-25

- A. An apparent contradiction concerning tongues as a sign for the unbeliever (14:21-25)
 - 1. The weakness of tongues and the potential power of prophecy
- B. Review
 - 1. Tongues Defined: *A Holy Spirit inspired utterance that is unintelligible apart from interpretation.*
 - 2. Prophecy Defined: *A God-given gift whereby some Christians receive and convey revealed information from God.*
 - 3. The expectation of prophecy to continue in the church based upon
 - a. Moses desire (Numbers 11:28)
 - b. Joel's Prophecy (Joel 2:28-29)
 - c. The fulfillment at Pentecost (Acts 2:5-21)
 - d. The church's conformity into the image of Christ – the *prophet*, priest, and king.

III. What should tongues and prophecy look like in the assembly? (1 Cor 14:26-35)

- A. verse 26 – edification and order
 - 1. What was unique about public worship in the Corinthian church
- B. verses 27-28 – restrictions on **tongues**
 - 1. Two, or at most three should speak in tongues in a service
 - 2. Each should speak in his own turn (not at the same time)
 - 3. There must be an interpretation of any message in tongues
 - 4. All of this indicates that the gifts of the spirit remain under the control of the gifted person
- C. verses 29-33 – restriction on **prophecy**
 - 1. prophecies should be limited to two or three (v. 29)
 - 2. prophecies should be weighed (v. 29)
 - a. prophets must subject their prophecies to evaluation by the church
 - b. this is very different than how so-called prophets today consider themselves prophets, in the OT sense of the word
 - 3. prophecies should be offered in an orderly fashion (v. 30-32)
 - a. *The spirits of prophets is subject to prophets* (unlike Jeremiah – Jer 9:20)
 - 4. All of this is based on the character of God, as a God of order (v. 33)
- D. verses 34-35 – *women should keep silent in the church*
 - 1. Is this an absolute rule?

- a. If so, what about 1 Cor. 11:2-16 where women prophesy without reproof?
2. How does women's silence apply to us today?
 - a. Some say this verse shouldn't be in the Bible
 - b. Others dismiss it as merely cultural
 - c. We must take into account the context
 - i. it has nothing to do with silencing tongues
 - ii. it has to do with them exercising authority over men in the judging of their prophecies.
 - iii. Application: women take care how you speak about your husband & take care not to spend too much time conversing with men who are not your spouse

IV. **Closing Argument on Tongues and Prophecy**

- A. verse 36 – a rebuke of the Corinthians' pride over their "spirituality"
- B. verses 37-38 – if one thinks he is a prophet, he must submit himself to the church's assessment and complete agreement with the Word
- C. verses 39-40 – desire prophecy and do not forbid tongues
 1. A warning to the Pentecostal for making tongues mandatory
 2. A warning to the cessationist for not obeying this imperative
- D. Beware of worshipping "order"
- E. How should we deal with Charismatic and Pentecostal brethren?